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Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathies

THE SPECTRUM OF CHRONIC WOUNDS IN OLDER ADULTS WITH HEART FAILURE

Poster Contributions

Hall C

Monday, March 31, 2014, 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Session Title: Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathies: Prognostic Factors and Determinants of Outcomes in Heart Failure Patients

Abstract Category: 12. Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathies: Clinical

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Authors: *T. Raymond Foley, Robert Page, Tammy Luttrell, Jonn Lindenfeld, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO, USA, University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy, Aurora, CO, USA*

Background: Chronic wounds are a significant public health concern consuming an estimated \$25 billion per year in healthcare expenditures and compromising quality of life for patients. Heart failure (HF) is considered a potential risk factor for chronic wounds; however, limited data exist on the spectrum of chronic wounds that HF patients may develop.

Methods: Patients from 300 US chronic wound referral centers > 65 years of age with a primary or secondary diagnosis of HF and a single, newly diagnosed chronic wound were evaluated from January 2005-December 2009. Descriptive statistics were used to determine frequency of chronic wounds and total days to heal. For total days to heal, HF patients were matched based on age, gender, ethnicity, wound type, BMI, number of comorbidities, diabetes, asthma, and COPD.

Results: 2893 patients (mean age 72.5 + 0.45 years) met inclusion criteria. 74.1% were male with a mean wound size of 9.71 + 0.21 cm² and BMI of 32.0 + 0.21 kg/m². The mean number of comorbidities consisted of 6.19 + 0.06. The most common chronic wound type consisted of venous pressure ulcers (28%) followed by diabetic ulcers (14%), traumatic wounds (13%), surgical wounds (10%), pressure ulcers (10%), skin tear (2.3%), lymphedema (1.5%), burns (1.8%), vasculitic ulcers (1.3%), and cellulitis (1.2%). Across all wound types, patients required 85.1 + 9.81 days for complete wound healing compared to 41.0±9.02 in the control group (p<0.0001).

Conclusion: HF patients present with a wide spectrum of chronic wounds, the most common being venous and diabetic ulcers. These wounds require longer times to heal in patients with HF. This is the first study to describe the type of chronic wounds seen in this population. These estimates can assist health systems with resource allocation for wound care management.